

Daily Devotional, January 7, 2021

“Amen”, (2 Corinthians 13:14, NKJV)

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.” (2 Corinthians 13:14)

“Amen” is a Hebrew word which can be translated “so be it”, or alternately, “of truth.” The word is used to close out each of the fourteen New Testament epistles that Paul wrote (from Romans through Hebrews). It is a word that affirms a desire for the divine will to prevail, and that the God of truth and His word is exalted.

Would anyone dare to blaspheme the Lord by making a farce of God’s will and God’s truth? Would a pastor do it to open a session in the United States Congress? Sadly, the answer is, “Yes.” Representative Emmanuel Cleaver (D-MO), a former United Methodist Pastor did just that as he gave the opening “prayer” to open the 117th Congress. In closing his prayer, he said, “amen and awoman.” This he did to make a political statement regarding gender. Using God and prayer in such a light way is blasphemy. We hope he repents before God, but it does not seem so. Cleaver doubled down and said, “Rather than reflecting on my faithful requests for community healing and reversion from our increasingly tribal tendencies, it appears that some have latched on to the final word of this conversation in an attempt to twist my message to God and demean me personally. In doing so, they have proven one point of my greater message – that we are all ‘soiled by selfishness, perverted by prejudice and inveigled by ideology.’” God help this man! If this pastor had apologized and corrected the record, I would be pleased to grant him grace, and never repeat the matter. But he actually doubled down to justify his irreverence! This guy gives true ministers of the gospel a bad name, and hurts the cause of the gospel.

Aside from the obvious need for God’s people to fall down and reverently ask Him not to impute this sin to our nation, there is a personal application. May none of us violate the Third Commandment ([Exodus 20:7](#)). Have you ever prayed irreverently, half-heartedly, or with an agenda? Maybe not, but how about without first stopping to consider the holiness of the Lord? After you read this, meditate for a moment on the holiness of God and the great privilege it is to approach Him in prayer. Then pray.